

ITEM 1. Amend rule **281--12.2(256)** by adding the following new definitions in alphabetical order:

281--12.2(256) Definitions

"Alternative options education programs" means alternative programs or schools as identified in Iowa Code 280.19A.

"Alternative program" means an established class or environment within the regular educational program designed to accommodate specific student educational needs such as, but not limited to, work related training, reading, mathematics, science, communication, social skills, physical skills, employability skills, study skills, or life skills.

"Alternative School" means an established environment apart from the regular educational program with policies and rules, staff, and resources designed to accommodate student needs and to provide a comprehensive education consistent with the student learning goals and the content standards established by the school district or by the school districts participating in a consortium. Students attend via choice.

"At-risk student" means any identified student needing additional support who is not meeting or expected to meet the goals of the educational program (academic, personal/social, career/vocational) established by the district as demonstrated by one or a combination of factors other than disability including, but not limited to, homeless children and youth, dropouts, returning dropouts, and potential dropouts.

"Dropout" means a school-age student served by a public school district enrolled in any of grades seven through twelve who does not attend school or withdraws from school for a reason other than death or transfer to another approved school or school district or has been expelled with no option to return.

"Potential dropouts" means resident pupils who are enrolled in a public or nonpublic school who demonstrate poor school adjustment as indicated by two or more of the following:

- a. High rate of absenteeism, truancy, or frequent tardiness.
- b. Limited or no extracurricular participation or lack of identification with school, including but not limited to, expressed feelings of not belonging.
- c. Poor grades, including but not limited to, failing in one or more school subjects or grade levels.
- d. Low achievement scores in reading or mathematics, which reflect achievement at two years or more below grade level.

“Returning dropouts” means resident pupils who have been enrolled in a public or non-public school in any of grades seven through twelve who withdrew from school for a reason other than transfer to another school or school district and who subsequently enrolled in a public school in the district.

ITEM 2: Amend rule **281—12.5(13)** as follows:

281--12.5(13) Provisions for at-risk students. Each school district shall make the following provisions in its comprehensive school improvement plan for meeting the needs of at-risk students:— ~~Valid~~ valid and systematic procedures and criteria ~~shall be used~~ to identify and determine appropriate educational strategies or program on an on-going basis for at-risk students ~~within~~ throughout the school district's school-age population. ~~Provisions for at-risk students shall include the following: modified instructional practices; specialized curriculum; parental involvement; and in-school and community-based support services as required in Iowa Code sections 256.11, 280.19, and 280.19A. alternative options education programs as required in Iowa Code section 280.19A, and~~ Each school district shall review and evaluate evaluation ~~its at-risk program~~ of the effectiveness of provisions for at-risk students.

This subrule does not apply to accredited nonpublic schools.

For those school districts ~~requesting to use~~ using additional allowable growth for ~~its at-risk program~~ provisions for at-risk students, the comprehensive school improvement plan shall also incorporate ~~the~~

~~following: the requirements specified in Iowa Code sections 257.38 to 257.40.~~ integration into the educational program of the at-risk program goals consistent with the student learning goals and the content standards established by the school district or for school districts participating in a consortium. The comprehensive school improvement plan shall also incorporate objectives, activities, cooperative arrangements with other service agencies and service groups, and strategies for parental involvement to meet the needs of at-risk children. The incorporation of these requirements into a school district's comprehensive school improvement plan shall serve as the annual application for additional allowable growth designated in Iowa Code section 257.38.

DATE

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